sphere of influence would cover a radius of about 20-25 kms.

(c) State Governments have been asked to submit their proposals for selection of growth centres as early as possible, preferable by 30th April, 1989.

(d) Since the growth centres would be provided with infrastructural facilities of a very high order, they are expected to attract industries to backward areas.

New Industrial Policy for Punjab

584. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of INDUS TRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new industrial policy for Punjab is under active finalisation by the Central Government;

(b) if so, by when the said industrial policy for Punjab would be announced; and

(c) to what extent the new policy will give a new thrust and direction to the industrial economy of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) This is a matter falling within the purview of the State Government and it is reported that the State Government have recently announced a policy to further encourage industrial development in the State.

Closed Production Capacity in the Paper Industry

585. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the closed production capacity in the paper industry is increasing; if so, what is the capacity lying closed as on 31st January, 1989; and

(b) that steps Government have taken/ propose to take to remove sickness of the paper industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) According to the records of Directorate General of Technical Development, 72 units accounting for a capacity of about 5.56 lakh tonnes, engaged in the manufacture of paper and paperboard, are not reporting production.

(b) Various reliefs and concessions have been extended in recent years to enable the paper industry in general to grow and improve its capacity utilisation and financial viability. In the Budget for 1988-89, a reduction of Rs. 100 per tonne in excise duty applicable to small paper mills and a reduction of Rs. 300 per tonne in the case of other mills using non-conventional raw materials had been granted. Financial Institutions are already providing assistance for modernisation at concessional rate of interest. A flexible approach is adopted by the Institutions with regard 10 the promoters' contribution and debt equity ratio based on merits of each case. Rehabilitation assistance is also extended by the Institutions to eligible units, which include rescheduling of term loans, reduction in working capital margin and interest rates.

Directions to the Public Sector Cement Units to improve their capacity utilisation

586. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA:
SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have urged the public sector cement units to improve their capacity utilisation;

(b) if so, what are the details of production made by each of the public sector cement unit during the past three years;

(c) what steps have been suggested by Government to improve the capacity; and

(d) whether the targets of cement production are likely to be achieved during